

Summary : The Future of Japan-Korea Relations -One Hundred Years after the Japanese-

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《Summary》

The Future of Japan-Korea Relations —One Hundred Years after the Japanese Annexation of Korea—

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One hundred years have elapsed since the Japanese annexation of Korea in 1910. The purpose of my lecture was to observe and analyze the present state of Korea-Japan relations. At the end, some recommendations were made for better bilateral relations in the future.

The current Japan-Korea relations are characterized, in simple terms, by a “love and hate” relationship. On the one hand, Japanese and Korean people have come a long way forward “loving” each other. In recent years, some five million people have visited each other’s country each year. There is a trend of growing interest in each other’s culture, manifested by such words as *hanryu* in Japan and *illyu* in Korea. On the other hand, there is a long-standing “hate” relationship between the two countries: the most significant ones being the issues of perception of history and the territorial controversy concerning Dokto or Takeshima.

The present state of bilateral relations, in my opinion, is influenced by five major factors. First, there is the existence of negative underlying sentiments among people in both countries. Second, seemingly good relations can deteriorate quite rapidly if an unpleasant incident occurs. Third, the relations can be easily affected by the words and

deeds of the two central governments. Fourth, relations are closely linked to the domestic political situations in the two countries. Fifth, the relations are not well in tune with the changing world environment.

In order to create new and better Japan-Korea relations for the future, I would like to make the following four recommendations. First, both sides need to seek mutually beneficial solutions to various issues. Second, efforts should be made to diversify bilateral relations to various areas and levels. Third, more emphasis should be placed on substantive cooperation rather than a mere exchange of people. Fourth, the two countries should co-operate more actively to cope with global issues.

The past one hundred years can be divided into four major eras. The colonial period of 1910–1945 was one of mutual hatred and animosity. The immediate post-liberation period of 1945–1965 was characterized by the lack of diplomatic relations and mutual antagonism. The period of 1965–1990 was influenced by the events of the Cold War and external pressure. The fourth period of 1990–2010 is an era of constant transformation and competition. In conclusion, to proceed beyond these past hundred years, we must take a completely different approach to create a new relationship by means of deeper mutual cooperation, multi-layered interactions, and joint efforts to deal with various global issues.